

March 13, 2022

To the members of the Judiciary Committee ([Judtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Judtestimony@cga.ct.gov))

RE: testimony on S.B. 16 / H.B. 5416 / S.B. 388 / H.B. 5415 / H.B. 5412

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the bills being heard in your committee on March 14th.

OPPOSE S.B. 16 and H.B. 5416

The fundamental flaw with these two bills is they completely fail to address the increase in violent crime we have experienced in Connecticut. These bills are primarily concerned with restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens. Even a cursory review of police reports demonstrates that the perpetrators ignore laws. Most reports include charges such as criminal possession of a firearm, carrying a pistol without a permit, and illegal possession of a high capacity magazine. The citizen who follows the law, makes purchases at licensed dealers, and submits to a background check is not the one involved in this crime spike. Why on earth would we want to create more restrictions on these citizens?

SUPPORT

S.B. 388, H.B. 5415, H.B. 5412

Law-abiding citizens must follow strict laws in order to exercise their right to self defense that is guaranteed under Section 15 of the Connecticut Constitution. Many of these laws are onerous and make self defense from a lethal threat difficult. These three bills will provide some relief (as in H.B 5415) and further protection from a deadly threat ( as in S.B. 388 and H.B. 5412).

I hope our legislators will focus more on protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens and punishing the actual criminals.

Respectfully,

Thomas McGuigan  
Guilford, CT

Cc: Representative Sean Scanlon, Senator Christine Cohen